

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

March 2024

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**
7pm
Tuesday
9 April 2024

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What was the greatest thing **before** sliced bread?



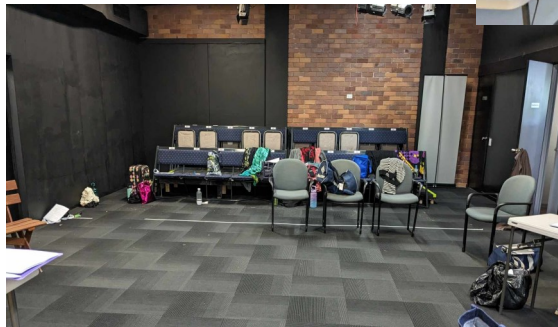
By Richard Harris
Directed by Tracey Spence
Assistant Director - Kym Frohloff

16 MAY - 1 JUN

Bookings are now open for our next major production *Stepping Out*, directed by Tracey Spence with Assistant Director Kim Frohloff

ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

After enduring an early rehearsal period with the Jean Pratt Building also being used for *Ageing Disgracefully*, the *Stepping Out* cast are delighted to be moving to the Incinerator ...



... vacating the Jean Pratt where the predominant use will now be for Junior Theatre, preparing for their production of *Wishes* and the Day-time Theatre Troupe rehearsing for *Picnic in the Woods*, both scheduled for presentation there.



The Young Theatricals will also rehearse *Antigone* in the Jean Pratt, before moving to the Incinerator once *Stepping Out* has bumped out.

Now, having "taken possession" of the Incinerator stage, the enthusiastic cast can really get serious in preparing to entertain audiences during their season in May.

My heartfelt thanks to Bob Polwyj, Jim Williams and Keith Puddefoot (who returned to the building after a 40 year absence) who built the components for the new set.

Also many thanks to Jim, Di, Dylan, Robyn, Helen and Chris who bumped out *Ageing Disgracefully* along with me. *Ian*

Working Bee

As noted by President Jim. the working bee was particularly well attended by (in no particular order):

Jim, Aaron, Julie-Anne, Ian, Helen, Corinne, Lily, Tracey, Shane, Kim, Martie, Ann, Ethan, Keith, Tony, Phil, Gillian, Paul, Robyn, Robyn, Jane, Glen, Vicki, Beth, Moo and Venessa. (I hope we didn't leave anyone out, but if we did, blame Jim – he made the list.) Or perhaps if your name isn't there, it's because you didn't come. Many thanks to all who did come. These working bees are an essential part of our operation.



From the President

The working bee on Sunday 25 February was a great success due to the number of workers who attended. We all had some fun, worked hard and finished by lunchtime. Thank you to all who attended, especially the new cast members from both seasons in production or rehearsal.

Congratulations to Helen and the whole team from *Ageing Disgracefully*. Audiences had a great time and enjoyed the amazing talents on display.

Jim

Footnote: Perhaps the weight of office and/or his moon-booted leg are having their impact on Jim. He reported to the March Admin meeting that *Ire and Safety briefings were given to each cast on Final Dress Rehearsal night*. (Although perhaps this was just a typographical slip.)



Another season comes to an end. It was a successful one, despite the difficulties our patrons had with booking either venue to see all the plays. Our best endeavours failed to produce equal patronage of each auditorium. For this season, we increased the number of seats available at each performance from 80 to 100 and we added an extra night to the season. So while we didn't achieve our usual 98%+ capacity, the box office result was very good. And the patrons were very happy, despite a later than usual night, expressing their enjoyment for the novel experience. For example, one patron, attending our theatre for the first time with his

wife, reported to Jane Sheppard, *We are still thinking, speaking about, analysing, and laughing about our afternoon at Ipswich Little Theatre*.

We continue to be amazed by the fact that patrons, even regular ones, do not know of the existence of the Jean Pratt Building, let alone the fact that it is a performance venue with, for this season, tiered seating (see photograph) and a removable stage, even smaller than the Incinerator one.



The audience in the Jean Pratt Building on 13 March



The set for *Heading for Home*

Freezer

Following its replacement by an upright version, the freezer from the bar has become redundant and we would love to donate it (free of charge) to a charity. If anyone knows of a place where it would be welcomed, just let the President know.



Theatre Shirts

Theatre shirts give us a great "corporate image" and are popular with members and volunteers. Connie Foy has volunteered to organise a bulk purchase order, so anyone who would like to purchase one with the ILT logo and/or, their name as well, please contact Connie who is currently seeking best prices. (Maximum \$50) <thefoys@optushome.com.au> or phone 0403 575 044



First Aid Kits

Sandie Henwood has updated all three First Aid Kits, and included whistles as a means of drawing attention if someone is in trouble in the buildings. Please do not use them unless needed. They are not a toy and will need to be replaced after use. Please let Sandie know if anything is used so it can be replaced and the kits kept up to date.

Daytime Theatre Troupe

The Daytime Theatre Troupe's production "Picnic in the Woods", to be staged in June, has been cast and rehearsals are commencing. Flyers have been distributed and bookings are now open: daytimetheatretroupebookings@ilt.org.au

The brilliant cast is:

Peter Rabbit – Robyn Harm

Puff Rabbit – Cynthia Graham

Papa Bear – Lonny Rutland

Mama Bear – Anne England

Baby Bear – Kerri Jones

Pooh Bear – Jane Brown

Paddington Bear – Cleo Smith

Little Red Riding Hood – Kate Hoepner

BBW – June Lambourne



Mrs Music – Chic Curry

Directors: Jane Sheppard and Marg Martin

Lighting technician: Veronica Taylor

Backstage crew: Anna Morris and Bette Rose

Costuming: Marie Mortimer



Plays for 2025

Applications are open until the end of June for budding directors to submit offers of productions they would like to undertake in 2025. These can be made to Selection Committee Convener Ann Collyer.

Selection Committee would also be happy to consider offers of potential Festival entries.

Librarian Aaron Evans would be happy to help directors looking for suitable plays to search our extensive library.

Junior Theatre

Auditions were held for the Juniors' production of *Wishes* on Saturday 9 March. The 11 junior players will be augmented by three more senior actors – yet to be selected/shanghaied. Director David Austin thinks the youngsters are so talented they may be able to show their seniors a thing or two.

Performances will be on Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May at 6 pm and Saturday 1 June at 10 am and 2 pm in the Jean Pratt Building.

Young Theatricals

Following the birth of their son Noah, Kate and Sam Hoepner returned to class on 13 March. The group were excited to have all the team back to nail *Antigone 3021* – a futuristic take on the Greek tragedy.

Directors Jessica Pittman and Mack Groves did a tremendous job of auditioning 24 actors in an hour and a half before allocating the roles. Rehearsals are now under way.

As part of the educational process, trainees have been selected for the production, including Shelby and Kailen as trainee directors and Gilbee as a trainee stage manager. Other students will be helping in backstage and costuming, while Dylan will be assisting someone up in the lighting box as it will be a tech heavy show.

The show will be performed in the Incinerator on 19, 20, 26 and 27 July at 7:30 pm and Sunday 21 July at 2 pm.

Festival

The 68th Festival will be held, as has been the custom now for many years, on the second weekend in August. Festival Director Di Johnston reports that plans are well in hand with early notice having been given to potential competing groups. She is delighted to have been informed that the group from Sydney who came last year in large numbers will be returning this year, though with a smaller contingent.

Entries will open on 1 April.

There will be three competitive sections: Ten minute plays, a Youth Section (up to 18 years old) and an open section. There will also be a Shakespeare Short section.

Adjudicator Talisa Pariss-Proby has already visited our complex and made herself familiar with our operation. More news of her in the next issue.

Tourific Troupers

Our Tourific Troupers will be hosting two tour groups during April and are willing to accept further bookings. These highly popular tours have now been available for the last 20 years or so. Visitors are entertained with delicious two course lunches, an illustrated talk on the history of the Incinerator and its occupants and a short play (to remind them that we are a theatre and not a restaurant) all for the incredibly low price of \$27.50 per head.

For bookings contact Helen Pullar 3281 4437/0400 801 443

2024 Season in Brief

Season 1: 28 February — 17 March

Ageing Disgracefully

Producer Helen Pullar
Six short plays staged in the Incinerator Theatre and the Jean Pratt Auditorium

Rated: PG Some adult themes.

Season 2: 15 May — 1 June

Stepping Out by Richard Harris

Director: Tracey Spence
Assistant Director: Kim Frohloff

Rated: PG.

Annual Drama Festival

Director:: Di Johnston
9, 10, 11 August

Season 3: 18 September — 5 October

Clue: On Stage adapted from the Paramount Pictures film written by Jonathan Lynn and the board game from Hansbro, Inc written by Sandy Rustin, based upon the works by Jonathan Lynn, Hunter Foster, Eric Price

Director: Tony Erhardt
Assistant Directors: Jo Robbins and Dave Dunkerley.

Rated PG: Adult Themes.

Season 4: 20 November — 7 December

Bondi Legal by Tony Laumberg

Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill
Assistant Director: Liz Ball

DIARY DATES

18 March	Bookings open for <i>Stepping Out</i>
27 May 7:30 pm	Auditions <i>Clue: on Stage</i>
30. 31 May 6 pm 1 June 10 am & 2 pm	Junior Theatre <i>Wishes!</i>
10 June to 21 June (booked sessions) 15 June 10 am Matinee performance	Daytime Theatre Troupe <i>Picnic in the Woods</i>
19, 20, 26, 27 July	Young Theatricals <i>Antigone 3021</i>
9, 10, 11 August	Drama Festival

Unsung Heroes

Every show must have them or else there would be nothing to see – lights. And lights (and sound effects) must have operators. ILT is just so lucky to have two men who are not only expert in their field, but are prepared to sit unseen and make their essential contribution. Here is a little acknowledgement and thanks.

(Does this make them sung heroes?)



Tony Erhardt in the Incinerator loft



Phil Holmes in the Jean Pratt Building

2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President & Selection Committee Convener	Ann Collyer	0400 997 365
Past President	David Austin	0413 636 249
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437/0400 801 443
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Subscription Secretary	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
Group Liaison	Robyn Flashman	0477 771 016/
Marketing	Robyn Harm	0413 742 116
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre	David Austin	0422 620 851
Young Theatricals	Kate Hoepner Aaron Evans	0479 048 979 0431 041 068
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Jane Sheppard	5464 5363 / 0419020675
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number	NB: Only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389